



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q67776

Yoshihiro INOMATA

Appln. No.: 10/023,807

Group Art Unit: 2121

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: LOCKER SYSTEM, LOCKER CONTROLLING METHOD, CONTROL CENTER, AND  
RECORDING MEDIUM

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 27 2003**

**Technology Center 2100**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. Shukan Ekonomisuto (Weekly Economist), Mainichi Shinbunsha, September 26, 2000, pp. 78-79.
2. Japanese Patent No. 9-330458, published December 22, 1997.
3. Japanese Patent No. 10-162242, published June 19, 1998.
4. Japanese Patent No. 8-120986, published May 14, 1996.

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5. Japanese Patent No. 7-65231, published March 10, 1995.
6. Japanese Patent No. 2002-8130, published January 11, 2002.
7. Japanese Patent No. 2002-150424, published May 24, 2002.
8. Japanese Patent No. 2002-154661, published May 28, 2002.
9. Japanese Patent No. 2001-266019, published September 28, 2001.
10. Japanese Patent No. 2002-109442, published April 12, 2002.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § under 114. Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

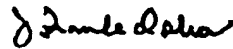
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated August 29, 2003, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/023,807

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

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Date: **OCT 23 2003**



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

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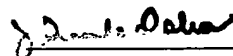
Technology Center 2100

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed  
concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a  
counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information  
Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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